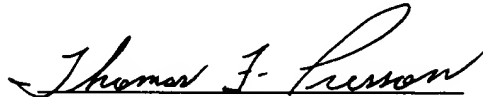


are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Thomas F. Presson
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Signature

August 5, 2002
Date

NEW CLAIMS 10-24

10. A method for transmitting an e-mail message intended for a non-preferred e-mail address to a preferred e-mail address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the e-mail message at a second address;

parsing the non-preferred e-mail address from the e-mail message at the second address and determining if there is a preferred e-mail address associated with the non-preferred e-mail address; and

sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred e-mail address.

11. The method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail has been sent to the preferred e-mail address.

12. The method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail message was not forwarded to the preferred e-mail address if the preferred e-mail address is not associated with the non-preferred e-mail address.

13. The method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the parsing step further comprises the step of comparing the non-preferred e-mail address to a look-up table to determine if the non-preferred e-mail address is contained in the look-up table.

14. A method for transmitting an e-mail message comprising the steps of:
receiving an e-mail message at a second address, the e-mail message including non-preferred e-mail address data associated with a desired recipient;
parsing the e-mail message to obtain the non-preferred e-mail address data from the e-mail message;
determining a preferred e-mail address from the non-preferred e-mail address data; and
sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred e-mail address when the preferred e-mail address has been established.

15. The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to a sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail has been sent to the preferred e-mail address.

16. The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to a sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail message was not forwarded to the preferred e-mail address if the preferred e-mail address is not determined.

17. A method for transmitting an e-mail message that has been sent from a sender address to a previously-known recipient e-mail address and rejected at the previously-known recipient e-mail address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the rejected e-mail message at a second address;
determining a preferred recipient e-mail address from the rejected e-mail message; and
sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred recipient e-mail address when the preferred recipient e-mail address has been determined.

18. The method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail has been sent to the preferred recipient e-mail address.

19. The method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail message was not forwarded to the preferred recipient e-mail address if the preferred recipient e-mail address is not determined.

20. The method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising the step of comparing the previously-known recipient e-mail address to a look-up table to determine if the previously-known recipient e-mail address is contained in the look-up table.

21. A method for transmitting an e-mail message that was sent from a sender address to a previously-known recipient e-mail address that is associated with a first service provider, and rejected at the previously-known recipient e-mail address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the rejected e-mail message at a second address;

determining a preferred recipient e-mail address, that is associated with a second service provider, from the rejected e-mail message; and

sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred recipient e-mail address when the preferred recipient e-mail address has been determined.

22. A method for transmitting an e-mail message that has been sent from a sender address to a second address, the e-mail message including non-preferred e-mail address data associated with a first service provider and a desired recipient comprising the steps of:

receiving the e-mail message at the second address;

parsing the e-mail message to obtain the non-preferred e-mail address data from the e-mail message;
determining a preferred e-mail address, that is associated with a second service provider, from the non-preferred e-mail address data; and
sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred e-mail address when the preferred e-mail address has been established.

23. A method for transmitting an e-mail message comprising the steps of:
sending a first e-mail message from a sender address to a second address, the first e-mail message including non-preferred recipient e-mail address data; and
receiving, at the sender address, a second e-mail message from the second address indicating that the non-preferred recipient e-mail address data is not preferred and that the first e-mail message has been forwarded to a preferred recipient e-mail address.

24. A method for transmitting an e-mail message comprising the steps of:
sending a first e-mail message from a sender address to a non-preferred recipient e-mail address; and
receiving, at the sender address, a second e-mail message from a second address indicating that the non-preferred recipient e-mail address data is not preferred and that the first e-mail message has been forwarded to a preferred recipient e-mail address.